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FACILITIES FOR COORDINATION OF U. S.
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

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☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest
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At the present time, two interdepartmental boards con-
cerned with the coordination of U. S. psychological warfare
and foreign information activities exist.

The Psychological Strategy Board, established by Presi-
dential Directive on April 4, 1951, is composed of the Under-
secretary of State, the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the
Director of Central Intelligence. It is concerned primarily
with psychological warfare policy on a high level, and will
perform such functions as the following:

1. Formulation of national objectives in such a manner
that the formulation will be of maximum usefulness
for propaganda purposes.
2. Planning for the coordination of psychological and
foreign information policies and activities with
other policies and activities of government.
3. Reviewing (and approving) inter-agency psychological
warfare and foreign information ~~Plans~~ and policies
adopted at a lower level.
4. Reviewing and evaluating on a continuing basis all
psychological warfare and foreign information acti-
vities and suggesting improvements to the agencies
involved.

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It should be noted that a staff for the PSB has not yet been recruited, and it is not expected that this Board will be in a position to function fully for several months.

The second interdepartmental body is the Psychological Operations Coordinating Board (PCB). This body was formed under the terms of NSC 59/1, and was previously known as the Interdepartmental Foreign Information Organization (IFIO). PCB is composed of representatives of the State Department, the Defense Department, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Central Intelligence Agency. The Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs serves as Chairman. In addition, representatives of the Economic Cooperation Administration, the Special Assistant to the President, (Mr. Harriman), the military services and other agencies are invited to sit with the Board as required.

Executive and secretarial functions for the PCB are performed by an Executive Secretariat, composed of personnel contributed by State, Army, Navy, Air Force, and the Central Intelligence Agency. This secretariat prepares papers for the attention of the Board, takes necessary action to see that decisions of the Board are carried out, and arranges to have written certain psychological warfare plans of interdepartmental scope. When the new Psychological Strategy Board starts operations, its staff may assume some of these planning functions; others will probably be retained by PCB.

Examples of functions which PCB performs are the following:

1. Arranging for simultaneous action by the State and

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Defense Departments in areas where both have current responsibilities - e.g. in Germany or South Korea.

2. Arranging for undertakings which are to be administered by one Department but require technical assistance from others.
3. Making, or arranging for, detailed plans affecting the psychological warfare activities of more than one department.
4. Providing a channel whereby all departments or agencies concerned may comment upon the plans or activities of other departments or agencies.
5. Coordinating the physical requirements of various agencies engaged in psychological warfare activities - e.g. with regard to the procurement of newsprint.
6. Evaluating and where necessary taking action on proposals submitted by members of the public which do not clearly come within the purview of any single department or agency.
7. Referring to PSB matters which are beyond its competence or matters which require approval at a higher level.
8. Receiving from PSB matters which require detailed planning or coordination, and monitoring the execution of decisions taken by PSB if requested to do so.

Both the Psychological Strategy Board and the Psychological Operations Coordinating Board have taken the point of view that their function is to assist and not to compete with agencies

and offices which are engaged in operations in the field of psy-

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psychological warfare and foreign information. In general, no task will be undertaken by the staff of either board when an office within one of the participating departments or agencies is willing and able to undertake it. Rather, it is expected that the flow will be the other way - that the participating agencies and departments will be requested by the PSB or PCB to assume certain added tasks.

The staff of the PCB will be glad to assist any other governmental office in such respects as the following:

1. Securing interdepartmental views on papers relating to psychological warfare or foreign information or bringing these papers to the attention of the relevant offices for information.
2. Replying to communications regarding psychological warfare or foreign information matters which fall outside the sphere of competence of existing offices.
3. Screening, and preparing for the attention of the PCB if necessary, ideas relating to psychological warfare or foreign information which have been worked out by either/governmental employees or members of the public.

In general, it should be noted that the Executive Secretariat of PCB offers a convenient and rapid channel whereby certain matters may be brought to the attention simultaneously of all principal departments and agencies concerned with psychological warfare and foreign information.

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Ideas originating in offices not directly concerned with psychological operations, or concerned with only a specialized phase, may also be forwarded to the Executive Secretariat, PCB. The Executive Secretariat then either prepares them for the attention of the Board or refers them to the appropriate agency for consideration. Through PCB, and when necessary PSB, a government-wide position on plans and projects can be taken with a minimum of delay and complication, and through the Executive Secretariat, PCB, channels to all agencies concerned with psychological warfare and foreign information are available. All offices are invited to make use of these facilities whenever it is convenient for them to do so.

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